

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7. (canceled)

8. (withdrawn) A linking structure located between a central system and a satellite system, which executes operations of the central system by the satellite system, said linking structure comprising:

a link between the central system and the satellite system;

a control card, in the central system, that places said operations in one or more data blocks; and

a coupler, in the satellite system, that sends to the control card at least one read command through the link, said control card being responsive to said one read command to send said one or more data blocks through the link to the coupler.

9. (currently amended) A method for exchanging information between a central system and a satellite system, which executes at least one operation of the central system, said method comprising:

a first step which includes sending a read command identified by a first logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system;

a second step which includes sending from said central system a first data block containing said operation in response to said read command, wherein said first data

block includes an operation control block and a corresponding operation data block each associated with said operation; [[and]]

a third step which includes receiving said first data block in the satellite system in order to process said operation, said second step and said third step being performed concomitantly;

transmitting, by said satellite system, said operation control block to a control portion of a peripheral coupler of the satellite system; and

transmitting, by said satellite system, said operation data block to a data portion of the peripheral coupler of the satellite system,

wherein said operation control block and said operation data block are used by said satellite system to execute said operation using a peripheral subsystem operably coupled to said satellite system via said peripheral coupler,

wherein said first step is performed using a first directional link,

wherein said second step is performed using a second directional link having a direction different from said first directional link,

wherein said satellite system is master for the first and second directional links,

wherein said first directional link is an uplink from said satellite system to said central system, and

wherein said second directional link is a downlink from said central system to said satellite system.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

~~a fourth step which includes~~ sending a write command from the satellite system to the central system identified by a second logical unit number and a second data block resulting from said operation.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

~~a fifth step which includes~~ sending a read command identified by a third logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system;

~~a sixth step which includes~~ sending from the central system, in response to said read command, a third data block containing said operation; and

~~a seventh step which includes~~ receiving, in the satellite system, said third data block in order to process the operation in said third data block, said seventh step and said second step being performed concomitantly.

Claim 12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

~~an eighth step which includes~~ sending a write command identified by a fourth logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system and a fourth data block resulting from said operation.

Claim 14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said first data block includes:

a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and
a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel
corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said first data block includes:

a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and
a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel
corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said first data block includes:

a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and
a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel
corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.

Claim 18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said first data block includes:

a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and
a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel
corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.

Claim 20. (canceled)

21. (withdrawn) A satellite system for processing an operation of a central system, comprising:

a first coupler for sending a read command to the central system and receiving a response from the central system, said response including at least one first data block constituted by a first field containing commands or data of said operation and a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field;

a processor for processing contents of the first field as a function of the header of the block; and

a second coupler for sending a write command to the central system accompanied by at least one second data block, wherein the first field contains a result of said operation and wherein the header identifies the logical channel corresponding to said operation.